A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, May 2. 1706.

AFter the Digreſſion of the laſt Paper, about the *Mine-Adventure*, I return to the Subject I was upon before, the Whiſperings of thoſe People, who, as Mr. *Stevens* well obſerv'd, love to give an ill turn to all our Publick Affairs.

The Suggeſtion I hinted in my laſt, was, that Emulation of Officers would prevent the Regular Proceedings of our Affairs, and that the Duke of *M.....b*, Jealous of the riſing Glory of my Lord *P.....b*, would prevent ſuch old Troops, and ſuch Experienc'd Officers being ſent thither, as the Caſe requir'd, and in particular would occaſion our Preparations to be ſo backward, that in all probability, Affairs there would be brought to ſome Unhappy Extremity, before due care was taken of it.

Tho' there is no doubt, this Report and theſe Whiſpers were rais'd among the People we talk of, as being the very General Abridgment of their common Diſcourſe; I am ſorry to ſay, that they made too much Impreſſion upon ſome, who pretended great Zeal for the Publick Affairs, ſeem'd Anxiouſly Sollicitous for the Earl of *P.....b* and the *Spaniſh* Expedition, and Concern'd, for fear of a Blow on that ſide to our Affairs; others, whoſe Ignorance Entitled them to receive their Impreſſions from Vulgar Report, began to run away with this Story as direct Matter of Fact, and the Gentlemen on the other ſide falling in with it; I refer to common Knowledge, how general the Diſcourſe was, and how eagerly Embrac'd by all People, that enter'd into the Diſcourſe of theſe things.

Nor

Nor was the Duke of *M....h* the only Person, but the whole Ministry were Represented as Careless in this Affair, as Influenc'd by My Lord *M....*, and Ingag'd both by Alliance and Party in his Measures; and thus, Gentlemen, we see a Foundation laid, to have divided the whole Party, in Case the least Disaster had befallen the Earl of *P....*, to have set you together by the Ears among your selves, that upon these groundless Surmises, you might have been Jealous of one another, and so with the more ease have fall'n a Sacrifice to those, that watch for your halting.

I hope these Gentlemen, who have so long Murmur'd at me, for Repeating the most necessary History of our last Summer struggle in the Nations Affairs, will now begin to see, what the Design of my doing so was, and what Necessity there was to present it compleat to your View, that being made all of all piece with the present Mannagement, the Peace of this Nation may be guarded by their watchfulness, as it was then to be recovered by their Diligence.

Wherefore I am very well content, to hear my self Charg'd with Unravelling my own Work, and pulling down what I built before, till the whole Scene is Finish'd, not at all doubting but those, *at least the well meaning among them*, who think so now, will have their Eyes open'd *with me*, to see the necessity of showing the World the Measures taken by the Enemies of our Peace to destroy it, as much as there was before, to show their Measures to prevent it.

If you Sleep, Gentlemen, assure your selves the other Gentlemen do not; if you are secure of your Peace, and think your selves safe, that your Point is gain'd, and the Danger over.

I pretend to assure you, the other People do not think so; I therefore cannot but think, that as 'tis their Maxim never to Despair, it ought to be the Maxim of every *English* Protestant, to be ever on his Guard for his Countries Good.

'Tis true, and God be Prais'd for it, the Capital Design is broke, and the great Measures taken for the dividing and ruining this Nation, receiv'd a Blessed overthrow in the Union, and unlook'd for Conjunction of both Houses, the Cry of the Churches Danger is over, that great Party-Mine was sprung, without any Damage to the Fortifications of our Peace.

But, Gentlemen, is the Party Dead? Or have they yielded up the Cause? Will you quit your Conquest, and after the Battle Disband your Forces, and leave them in Arms?——Will you think all their future Attempts Insignificant? Will you depend upon their Incapacity to hurt you, and no more exert your Care? Will you lack your Watchfulness, and not endeavour to maintain the Ground you have fairly gain'd?

'Ts certain, the same Perswasions that were necessary to move you to Peace, are in all things as necessary to move you to preserve it; and this can never be, if you will shut your Eyes to the frequent Attempts of those, that are always Diligent to retrieve their Party, and as much as in them lies, overthrow that Union of Persons and Councils, in which your present Safety consists.

Accept therefore, Gentlemen, needful Cautions from one, who, tho' not always careful to Please, was ever careful to Serve the General Peace, and never made the least offer to obstruct it.

In the frequent sad Occasions, you have to see your Houses and Streets on Fire in this City; I have observ'd when a Fire is down, *or as we say under Foot*, the Engines are it's true sent Home, and the People Dismiss'd, and the Water-Pipes stop'd —— But you always take care *to watch the Ruines*, least the subtile Enemy should creep into the Cellars, and secret Corners of the Adjacent heaps, *and break out afresh*.

This is the Substance of the present Exhortation; the Fire of Contention is, *may God Almighty be duly Prais'd*, brought down *and under Foot*, and we are all very forward for sending home the Engines, nay, and as some did the *Dutch* formerly, without their Pay too; and which is worse, some Peoples Gratitude is so remarkable, they

they are for throwing *the very Engines, that help'd to quench it, into the Fire to be burnt*; but Pray, Gentlemen, whatever you do, WATCH THE RUINES; *Fire* is a ſubtile Element; *Contention* is a ſubtile Quality, and ſlily inſinuates it ſelf into Men's Minds, Debauches the beſt Tempers, mingles with our Intereſt, our Opinions, our Friendſhips, and ſometime with our Principles; this is the Fire we have been Quenching, and we have had it down and under Foot.

But what Inceſſant Endeavours, are there every Day diſcovered, among the very ſame People, to revive the Flame; What continual Efforts to divide your Intereſts, Expoſe your Governours, Miſrepreſent their Actions, Diſcontent the People, give Ill Turns to all the Publick Events, and Amuſe the Ignorant? Theſe are the Ruines of their Cauſe, in the Cavities whereof ſuch ſecret Fires lurk, ſuch Miſchiefs are Conceal'd, that you cannot be too cautious or too wary to prevent the frequent breakings out of the Flame.

'Tis to this Caution I perſwade, and I ſincerely wiſh, the Effects may rather prove theſe Cautions Impertinent, than to hear you Ackowledge their needful and ſeaſonable Import, under the Unhappy Effects of a Diſappointment.

I proceed therefore to Expoſe and Diſcover as far as poſſible, all the Attempts of the preſent Malecontent Gentlemen, for this Reaſon, that People, ſeeing their Indefatigable Diligence, to Injure, Diſcourage, Defame, and Diſappoint all Publick Proceedings, may be prepar'd not to receive undue Impreſſions from ſuch Endeavours, tho' the Ends they wiſh for ſhould come to paſs. ——

When I find ſome People uneaſie at my looking back on theſe things, methinks they have forgot the Title of the Paper; *A Review, &c.* By which I underſtand, bringing things paſt to our Sight——But I am now upon the preſent, which perhaps may pleaſe ſome People as little.

The preſent Obſervation is the Diligence of ſome People, to give an Ill Turn to all Publick Affairs, ſuggeſting the Jealouſies, Diviſions, and Animoſities, between Perſons and Parties, which they would fain create; and my firſt Inſtance is with Relation to the Affair of *Spain*, and ſending timely Succours to my Lord *P.... b.*

And here I would deſire any conſidering Man to Examine two things.

1. The Deſign of theſe Reports.
2. The little Reaſon there is for them.

The Deſign is plainly made out in the early Improvement the Perſons, who eagerly began them, made of the firſt Melancholy Accounts we had of the Preparations for the Siege of *Barcelona*.

The firſt Report rais'd upon this was, that we ſhould not be time enough to Relieve them, and that we neglected them, and our Preparations were backward, and the like.

That when every Body was expecting the Fleet ſhould Sail, and the Money being given, the Parliament was going Home; truly then, Sir *Cloudſley Shovel* laid the Naked State of Affairs before you, and you wanted 12000 Seamen.

Upon theſe Reports, who were the Complainers? Nothing was more plain, than that the Broachers of theſe Notions were principally ſuch as were very well pleas'd with things being ſo, and wiſh'd us yet more backward, but the thing was exactly Calculated to the Event of things; that if a Miſcarriage happen'd, they might moſt effectually have prepar'd a Charge againſt the Miniſtry, for neglecting the Affairs of *Spain*, in prejudice to my Lord *P..... b.*

Can any Man be ſo blind in his Politicks, as not to ſee into the bottom of this? Is it poſſible this could be rais'd for any other End, than if poſſible to raiſe two Factions among the Whig, and divide their Intereſt; to create Jealouſies among the Friends of the Government, againſt the Management of Affairs, and againſt the Managers of them, and ſo if poſſible to remove the Men that have puſh'd things on with ſuch Succeſs both at Home and Abroad?

Let any Man Examine the frequent Aſſaults, made upon all our Active Men; how has the Duke of *Marlborough*'s Conduct been